

16 June 1970

Dear Howard (cc. Weisberg):

Although I have foresworn correspondence until after I have taken my oral and done some additional thesis writing, I must congratulate you for the revelations in your most recent letters.

M.L.Baker/Couch: This is splendid. I have no criticism, but one comment. You did not take into consideration Dillard's photo of TSBD taken within a few seconds after the last shot. Would this not be important in your determination of the location of Camera Car 3 after the shooting?

Even without that, however, I think your piece conclusive.

Clippings from Skolnick: The Richmond editorial serves more to convince me that if all else fails in keeping the lid on the truth, the authorities are going to pull a communist conspiracy out of the hat. Having finally disclosed that they were indeed covering up a conspiracy, they will then not only justify their actions, but will even heap themselves with praise for having maintained "national security" by avoiding a war with Russia, or Cuba, or what have you.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ I cannot imagine what else they can do but encourage conspiracy notions and then show it was communist inspired.

The other article merely shows Sk's lust for publicity. That devil can cause us ruin.

Neck fragments: The minute quantity of metal still makes no sense to me. I suppose that you might consider that a soft-nose bullet entered the back, and was removed before the X-rays were taken. That leaves, however, the important question what happened to the bullet that wounded the front of the neck. I firmly believe that a bullet did enter from the front, and tend to consider other factors in light of what I regard as that fact.

I still think they are hiding something about neck fragments. Maybe not the Panel docs, who did not see all the evidence, and do not know all that went on. But surely somebody is holding back.

Lifton pix: I am most anxious to see what L sends you. If you let me have them long enough to make slides, I'll share the cost with you. In time I shall get the Nix and Muchmore from Gary, but I would like to have copies of the other things, too.

Lung bruises, etc. You have already fully convinced me that Humes lied re the chest tubes. It's good, though, to gather as much corroborative material as possible.

I do not have full confidence in the conjecture that I sent you, that Humes lied merely to help cover up charade with Perry over front-neck wound. It's the sort of explanation that will do for want of anything better, and I do think it reasonable. But it's best not to cleave solidly to it. Consider it the best available explanation, but try to think of others, too. Humes stuck his neck way out by committing perjury on this matter, and I wonder ~~whether~~ why it was that important to him.

Bothering Wecht: Harold's advice was good when he gave it, and should be considered in the future, but presently I think you can rightly disregard it somewhat. Wecht's response seems more than polite

compliment. Moreover, he seems sincerely to invite you to stay in touch. Use good judgment in determining when to write him; stick to important things. But don't be too reluctant to consult him merely on the basis of Harold's cautions.

The form of your letter is excellent in that it asks questions that can be answered briefly. Letter reading is not such of a problem, but having to write long explanations might turn him off. Above all, don't argue with him or try to convince him of anything. You seem to know this, anyway, but I set it forth as a reminder.

Skull matter: Your comments in 8 June letter to HW are good. Can we agree, however, that Z313 shows a piece of skull matter flying upward and forward of JFK head? I do not know whether a shot from the front could produce that effect; I think not, but perhaps it is possible. I know that if you shoot a closed jar-full of water, pieces of glass may fly back toward the snooter. I do not know whether situation with head is analagous. Similarly, I once shot an apple with .22 Magnum at about 10 yards and had pieces of the apple splatter me.

Congratulations for winning the scholarship. And good luck.

Still,

Dick